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Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area
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Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
New Horizons for Seniors Program – Western Canada and Territories Region
125 East 10th Ave Vancouver BC V5T 1Z3

**Re: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTHERN GULF ISLAND COMMUNITY
RESOURCE CENTRE (CRC) NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS (NHFS) GRANT
PROGRAM**

To whom it may concern,

As the Electoral Area Director for the Southern Gulf Islands, I am pleased to write in support of the "Savvy Seniors of the Salish Sea" project run by the Southern Gulf Islands Neighbourhood House (SGINH). This organization has consistently demonstrated its commitment to improving the lives of individuals and families across Saturna, Galiano, Mayne, and Pender Islands. Their work in reducing poverty and addressing key social needs is vital, and they have made significant strides in fostering supportive, sustainable communities for all residents, particularly those most in need.

The SGINH's programs cater to the rural and remote island communities with a combined population of 6,101, as reported in the 2021 Stats Canada Census. With approximately two-thirds of this population over the age of 55, addressing senior isolation is a critical issue on these small islands. The SGINH partners effectively with local health clinics, senior centres, and clubs to ensure their programs are inclusive of vulnerable seniors, including low-income individuals, veterans, and those with disabilities. They are committed to building strong connections within these communities and uphold values of diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging.

The "Savvy Seniors of the Salish Sea" project includes three core programs: Computer Savvy Seniors, Multigenerational Connections, and Take a Break. These initiatives aim to engage seniors in their communities by fostering mentoring relationships, promoting volunteerism, and encouraging social interactions across generations. They are designed to enhance social participation, support aging in place, and alleviate the isolation and loneliness many seniors face.

The impact of these programs is substantial for seniors in the Southern Gulf Islands, particularly for those with complex needs who often struggle to access appropriate services. Based on my observation of SGINH's past projects, I am confident that this initiative will provide immense value to our senior community.

I am pleased that the New Horizons for Seniors Program is once again offering this grant and strongly endorse the SGINH application.

Sincerely,

Paul Brent
Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director
Capital Regional District